



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

hoch über das nicht grosse Gebäude, womit sie anfang, und es leben noch Professoren, die an ihrer Gründung teilnahmen. Dieses Jahr aber hat die University das grösste und vollendetste anatomische Institut der Welt eröffnet. Es stehen da zwei Denkmäler:—der "Erwartung" und der "Erfüllung" gewidmet.

Vor vierzig Jahren entschloss sich ein zwanzigjähriger Amerikaner, sich der Wissenschaft zu widmen. Bald erkannte er, dass es damals in Amerika einem angehenden Naturforscher sehr an Gelegenheiten und Unterstützung fehlte, daher entschied er sich, nach Europa zu gehen. Er fand in Deutschland die heiss ersehnten Lehrer und Anstalten, und so kam es, dass er durch seine deutsche wissenschaftliche Ausbildung ein Untertan des deutschen Geistes geworden ist. Nach einigen Jahren begab er sich wieder in die Heimat. Sechszunddreissig Jahre hindurch hat er—wie andere seiner Landsleute—unaufhörlich das deutsche Ideal der Forschung durch Wort und Tat in Amerika zur Geltung zu bringen versucht. Dass sein Streben nicht vergebens gewesen ist, wagt er daraus zu schliessen, dass er jetzt vor Ihnen als Austauschprofessor steht. Seine Ernennung zu dieser Professur ist ihm eine nicht zu überschätzende Ehrung. Seine Anerkennung kann er in diesem Moment nur dadurch zum Ausdruck bringen, dass er die ihm von Ihnen auferlegten Pflichten gewissenhaft und nach besten Kräften zu erfüllen verspricht.

Heute aber möge es mir gestattet sein, an erster Stelle Ihren Majestäten für die hohe Auszeichnung Allerhöchstihrer Gegenwart ehrfurchtsvollsten Dank auszusprechen. Auch danke ich Seiner Exzellenz dem Herrn Kultusminister und seinen Räten sowie Eurer Magnifizenz für die mir geschenkte Aufmerksamkeit. Allen meinen geehrten Kollegen und, last not least, den

deutschen Kommilitonen wärmsten Dank mit dem Wunsche für ein gutes und erfolgreiches Semester.

CHARLES SEDGWICK MINOT

THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AT CLEVELAND IN 1853¹

THE twenty-eighth of July was the day appointed for the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. During the week after that date, Cleveland, the Forest City of the West, teemed with an unwonted convocation. Steamboats and railroad trains poured forth in her shaded streets groups of enthusiastic savants, bearing hither, as to a shrine, the fruits of their two years' thought and labor. In answer to a formal summons from the appointed hierarchs, the sunny South, the cold, contemplative North, the commercial East and the wilderness West sent forth their "representative men," their observers, their experimentalists and their philosophers, to give and to gather the unseen wealth of thought. Happy is the day when our geologists and naturalists, our chemists and engineers, our astronomers and mathematicians, our geographers and ethnologists, our physiologists and botanists, give to each other the right hand of fellowship, and come to know each other as coworkers in one great labor. It is a sight to gladden one's heart, when the modest and shrinking man of thought or genius, through the long years a lone laborer in his better than Californian or Australian mines, at last meets his compeers and finds the warm welcome and recognition which had been his early ambition, but had long ceased to be his hope. It is a moment when philosophers show forth the deep and strong human heart that is in them, when, after a long seclusion, they grasp anew the hand of such friendship as springs from sympathetic tastes and mutual respect.

Its constitution declares that "the objects of the association are, by periodical and mi-

¹ From *Putnam's Monthly*, Vol. 11, September, 1853, No. 9, p. 319 et seq.

gratory meetings, to promote intercourse between those who are cultivating science in different parts of the United States; to give a stronger and more general impulse, and a more systematic direction to scientific research in our country; and to procure for the labors of scientific men increased facilities and a wider usefulness." Collegiate professors, and the few who, scattered through the industrial and professional walks of life, have power and leisure to do something positive in the interpretation of nature, chiefly constitute this nomadic association. The sympathetic bond of scientific investigation, of endeavor at some point to transcend the line which divides the known from the unknown in nature and in man; this union of purpose is that central thread of connection which makes a unity of elements individually so diverse. This association is the U. S. Congress of Science, but one without parties or patronage, and in which all departments of genuine knowledge and philosophy find recognition and representation. In this convocation many of our noblest minds display their stores of rugged wealth, and genius here exhibits the pearls it has drawn from the depths of truth's great ocean. Calmly and soberly, with a style perhaps void of eloquence and grace, yet earnest, direct and truthful, does the inquisitor of nature tell of the confessions he has extorted from the animate and inanimate realms of the created. Feeble minds at times will expound crudities and venture rash flights, but some voice of sage philosophy or cool experience is ever at hand to correct misconceptions or cripple a too lawless wing. A generous and delightful spirit of amity has hitherto prevailed, almost without interruption, in these meetings, and great would be the pity and the shame if a less tolerant and courteous feeling should ever enter an assemblage devoted to objects so noble and elevating. He is more of an egotist than a true student of nature who can engage in fierce contention on points of science.

In September of 1847 "The Association of American Naturalists and Geologists," while assembled in Boston, decided to expand its organization so as to bring the entire field of

positive science within its compass, and accordingly resolved itself into the "American Association for the Advancement of Science." The geologists created by the great necessity for geological exploration over our magnificent domain, and the naturalists engaged in parallel and often associated labors, found it necessary to band together, and at appointed meetings to learn from each other the results of their respective labors. As this association grew vigorous and compact the need of a broader basis for operations was felt, and at last led to that expansion which has made for us an association, organized on the same principles, and for the same ends, as the British Association for the United Kingdom, and the earlier general association for Germany.

The instauration meeting of this new body was held in Philadelphia, during September, 1848. A constitution was then adopted, which, with some modifications, is still in force. The idea was too new to meet with full success, and accordingly, that meeting, of four days duration, exhibits less of interest than the subsequent ones. Yet much was done towards making generally known what the objects proposed really were.

The second meeting was held in Cambridge during August, 1849. The venerable shades of Harvard swarmed with philosophers, and new voices resounded within her time-honored walls. A full attendance, numerous communications of interest and importance, many social courtesies, and a harmony which knew no check, made a *tout ensemble* held by many in delightful memory.

Next was appointed and held a semi-annual meeting at Charleston in March, 1850. Here several elaborate papers on geological and botanical subjects were presented, and the proceedings exhibited much variety. Unfortunately a gleam of middle-age intolerance dared to intrude and to foment some animosity under the cloak of religion. But we trust that the time is past when science need fear boldly to speak out its truths, however unwelcome or provocative of the *odium theologicum*. We hope the drama of Galileo will under all forms

and disguises be hereafter hissed from the stage.

The next meeting was held for a week during the latter portion of August, 1850, at New Haven. The quiet and beautiful city of elms extended a cordial greeting to the scientific soldiers who responded at the yearly roll call. The communications read were numerous and of marked interest, especially in the department of general physics. A semi-annual meeting was then appointed and in due time held at Cincinnati, during the second week of May, 1851; at which communications on geological subjects predominated. The total number of papers was about one half of that at New Haven. The most striking incident was the triumph of Professor Mitchell's method of recording astronomical observations.

The succeeding annual meeting was held at Albany, and was probably the most interesting of the series. The number of members in attendance (doubtless exceeding 300), the variety, interest and scope of the papers presented (being 134 in number), and the indefatigable hospitality of the Albanians, made up a week of continuous mental vitality and social ovation. The subdivision into sections was more complete than it had been before, and each section had full occupation.

It was there resolved to accept the invitation by the corporation of Cleveland to hold the next meeting in that city, commencing on the third Wednesday of August, 1852. The prevalence of cholera and other diseases in the west just prior to this date induced the standing committee to postpone the proposed meeting, so that no assembling of the association occurred until that which is just concluded. After fully canvassing the convenience of all concerned, it was decided to meet in Cleveland for the week following July 28, 1853. This meeting lasted five working days, and progressed with increasing interest, the number of papers being over eighty. A very decided preponderance of physical subjects was found to prevail, the departments of natural history and geology not being as strongly represented as usual. The non-attendance of Professor

Agassiz, the Rogers, Dana, Hitchcock, Foster and other leading spirits, who always have ample contributions, was a deficiency seriously felt, and gave a too partial character to this meeting, which was much regretted. We trust that this is not to be construed into a lack of interest or of fealty on the part of the geologists and naturalists, and we hope that this association, their own foster-child, is not through their defection to become lop-sided and incomplete. That some disaffection exists we are well aware, but we would say in all earnestness, let not this be the means of dis severing this natural unit; rather let the next meeting be entered into with the hearty concurrence of all, and with the thorough resolution to waive all discordant memories, and at least to try again fairly to execute the fundamental idea of this association. We believe such an effort will be made, and that it will fully succeed. The Cleveland meeting came at a time inconvenient for many, nor was the place central; which, with the loss of interest consequent on the two years' interval, will explain the inferiority of this meeting to that held in Albany, without supposing any positive secession. Washington, the next point of meeting, is a place where all sections of the association should array their full strength and present the complete federation of the sciences in a representative congress. The last Wednesday in April, the soft, delightful month of flowers and foliage, is the appointed day of convocation. With congress in session, and nature in gala array, with a certainty of welcome and hospitality, with our capitol lions to be seen and our capitol orators to be heard and to hear, there would seem to be enough to insure a full and fruit-bearing meeting.

The election of officers at the Cleveland meeting resulted in the choice of Professor Dana, for president; Professor J. Lawrence Smith, for general secretary; Professor Joseph Lovering, of Cambridge, for permanent secretary, and Dr. Elwyn, for treasurer. These officers elect will enter on their duties at the next meeting.

The six volumes of proceedings of this association at the six meetings first held ex-

hibit a rich aggregate of research and suggestion covering a large part of the scientific specialities which have been cultivated among us. It is indeed lamentable that so large a portion of the most important communications made are not included in the proceedings, being, through the delays and neglect of their authors, entered as "not received." It is also matter of much regret, if not of complaint, that the presidents, with the exception of Professor Bache (who is the most occupied of all), have not furnished their annual addresses for these volumes. To us it seems incumbent on the president to make his retiring address an elaborate production, in which the general progress of science during the year shall be reviewed; or in which some large and positive subject of scientific interest and importance shall be thoroughly and yet popularly treated. For instance, we should have liked to have heard from Professor Agassiz a summary of what has been done, and what is still desired, in the natural history of North America. Or still better would we have relished from this highest source, a discourse on the intellectual element in organic structure. Why, too, should not Professor Pierce unfold a year hence, how America needs a real university, and what such a university should do if organized. Some *positive* subject should be chosen, or else the annual address should be a systematic *exposé* of what has been done during the year, as it usually has been made by the British Association presidents.

We are happy to record the generous action of Charleston, Cincinnati, Albany and Cleveland, in assuming the expenses of publishing their respective volumes of proceedings. The citizens or the corporations have in these instances taken on themselves the burden of publication; which generosity is alike an honor to them and to the association. This body has no source of income, except the fees of members, amounting only to \$2 per annum, or \$3 with the annual volume of *Proceedings* (just changed to \$1 fee and *Proceedings* at cost). The liberality it has experienced is thus very fortunate, especially when we remember that the possession both of wealth and of philo-

sophic lore rarely falls to the lot of the same individual. With all its utilitarian biases in these days, science rarely enriches the coffers of its cultivators, so that truly original researches are still well-nigh as unremunerated as in the wretched days of patrons. The moneymakers are usually two or three removes from the prime investigators whose search is for principles. Wide indeed is the tract between Castalia and Pactolus.

As the presidents and acting officers of this association are all men in whom the public has a certain right of property, and as they will well bear being delineated, it seems proper here to present, for such as may be strangers to them, a series of outline sketches of these post-of-honor-bearers in this migratory congress.

The first president was W. C. Redfield, Esq., who officiated at Philadelphia. A noticeable man, too, is Mr. Redfield. One would scarcely expect to find, under so placid and venerable an exterior, a spirit living in storms and hurricanes. Yet it is true that his keen eye is steadily bent on the wind bags (how invaluable had he been to Ulysses!), nor can a breeze indulge in any gyrations or irregularities but he is sure to put black marks against it in the books. Long has Mr. Redfield been a weather sentinel, and meteorology owes him much, both in the field of observation and in the far higher domain of speculation. But for a few live-minded men of this cast, rational meteorology would long since have been dead and buried in figures, which dull men can accumulate, though to interpret them requires the keen eye of subtle but patient reasoning. If, as is likely, Mr. Redfield is wedded to his theories, there is no lack of counter-theorists to battle his unproved positions, and in rather a stormy temper too; a fault which seems quite to beset our weather-seers, as if the shrewishness of our climate communicated itself to those who supervise its whimsicalities. Mr. Redfield is, moreover, a good geologist, having specially studied the fossils and fossil raindrops of the Connecticut valley red sandstone.

The second president was Professor Joseph Henry, the secretary of the Smithsonian In-

stitution, who presided at Cambridge. He is a hale and rather portly man, with a face alternating between abstraction and a very kindly consciousness, and looks as if he had a mission to work for man another score of years. He was born an experimental philosopher, and so lived at Albany and Princeton, until he was elected to his present administrative post. To his discoveries in electricity the telegraph owes its practical development, and we verily believe that with industry on his part, and a fair chance thus to apply himself, electrical science in all its fields might have owed him more than it does to Faraday. But this hope was extinguished under the southern tower of the Smithsonian Institution. There he is busy with what others, doubtless, could do as well; and thus is left undone what none other could do at all. This is a new instance of taking a man of proved abilities in one sphere to do what belongs to another and quite dissimilar one for which he has no birthmark. We ought to learn that men are of most value when doing that for which they have a special faculty, and it is a fair question whether Professor Henry, doing that for which nature intended him, would not during his life effect more in advancing science than the Smithsonian Institution in its aggregate existence is likely to do. High as this institution stands as a practical fact, and useful as it is and will be, if it is to extinguish the experimental researches of Professor Henry, we could fain say, give us back the man and let the institution go. Professor Henry lacks but mathematical training and energy of purpose to do something greater than has yet been accomplished among us in the domain of physical science. Will he do so? is the question. Facts within our knowledge assure us that this must and will be.

Next on the list of presidents comes Professor A. D. Bache, the superintendent of the Coast Survey, who presided at Charleston, New Haven and Cincinnati. He is a fortunate man in having found exactly the place for which nature and training have best fitted him. His quick eye, facile perception and actual attainments in science and in the knowl-

edge of men make him the eminently able administrative man which he is fully admitted to be. Heading his class at West Point, encountering as an officer of engineers the stern actualities of engineering; as a professor and college president in Philadelphia achieving eminent success, he grew in that stature of mental training and experience which makes his eminence and usefulness in his present post a natural result. It is a rare thing to find so fortunate a combination of administrative and scientific talent, nor do we believe the country possesses another man who could so well thread the complications incident to Professor Bache's position. He is clearly Franklin's grandson. Whether, if permitted the requisite leisure, he would strike out and execute any great invention, discovery or research, is a question not easily answered; for though his original researches are highly creditable, especially in discussing the tides, they are, of course, only such as were compatible with his incessant life of action. The deeply reflective element whence the greatest achievements spring, has in him, as in most of our best men, been kept in abeyance by the intense externality and practicality of American life.

Professor Louis Agassiz was the next president, acting as such at the Albany meeting. He is a man of highest genius, who does great things quite naturally and yet with intense labor. Take him all in all, he towers quite above every living naturalist, and may not inaptly be called *Cuvier Junior*. His physique is of the noblest kind, and his ample forehead gives token of the mind within. He comes to us from the Alps, an Alpine man. Trained under Cuvier, and by him honored as residuary legatee to a large field of research; he has been an enthusiastic and most fruitful laborer in ichthyology, paleontology, glacial geology, animal classification, embryology, and especially has he carried new light among the inferior orders of animate beings. His work on Fossil Fishes has recently been crowned with the Cuvier medal, then given for the first time, though founded by Cuvier, who died in 1832. He was professor of natural history in

the Swiss university at Neuchâtel, until in 1846, when he came to this country, and was soon made professor in the Lawrence Scientific School, Harvard University. Here he has done distinguished service to natural history, and has been continuing the great labors of his life. A large cabinet has grown up around him, where he is buried in a multitude of special and general investigations, which unfortunately he rarely puts in form for publication, leaving scores of important researches and discoveries quite unrecorded. He much needs collaborators and reporters, to save his labors from oblivion. Among other herculean toils, he is maturing, and will in time present to the world, the broadest and completest classification of animated nature which has been made. From such a man was the discourse by the retiring president, this year, to have come, had not ill health prevented his attendance. We have doubtless thus been deprived of some of those exhilarating generalizations and enthusiastic bursts which so characterize his genius and indicate its superiority to the mere talent of the ordinary investigator or descriptive naturalist.

The president now officiating, and who presided at Cleveland, is Professor Benjamin Peirce, of Harvard University. As we look on his floating locks, furrowed brow, thin face and figure, and especially his clear, deep eye, it is not difficult to recognize the first American mathematician and physical astronomer. His mind plays football with transcendental functions, and runs algebraic gauntlets with a facility scarcely inferior to that of Cauchy, the preeminent mathematician of France, who, declining to swear by Louis Napoleon, was a few months since ejected from his government professorship in Paris. (Why will not some millionaire invite M. Cauchy to America, providing for him as Mr. Abbott Lawrence did for Professor Agassiz?) Professor Peirce is an excellent refutation of the usual slipshod idea of a mathematician. He is a most interesting, earnest and cultivated gentleman, of marked kindness and geniality, and excellent company for any man of sense. Scarcely could a less genial man so long make part of

that most high-toned, refined and cultivated circle of college society in Cambridge, without at least an external exhibition of the humanities of culture and of life. So fully has the professor president mastered the perturbations of the planets, that he may be said to have put these wanderers under centennial bonds to keep the peace. When the world was all agog with Le Verrier's discovery of Neptune, through the perturbations of Uranus, Professor Peirce publicly declared that the planet discovered was *not* the planet called for by Le Verrier's theory; a bold saying that was, and we then thought a rash one, but he was quite right, as the daily confirmation of the lamented Walker's Ephemeris fully proves. Once, too, he was wrong; but when he found his error he was prompt to confess and disclaim it as publicly as possible: a nobler thing than convicting Le Verrier of oversight. Professor Peirce has long been a sort of backbone to the physical astronomy of the country, as has of late been shown in his services to the new Nautical Almanac; and we hope he may long survive to fill this post of labor and of honor.

At the fourth meeting, the only salaried officer of the association, that of permanent secretary, was created, and a salary of \$300 per annum established, the term of office being three years. Professor Spencer F. Baird, of Dickinson College, Pennsylvania, now the Natural History Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, was chosen to this new post. His duty includes arranging for reports of proceedings, the issuing of circulars to members, nearly all the current correspondence, and the charge of publishing and distributing the volumes of proceedings. The smooth working of the business matters of the association depends very much on the skill and fidelity with which the duties of this office are discharged; and it is fortunate that one so competent in every respect was chosen to it. Professor Baird was a favorite pupil and intimate friend of Audubon, and has made special attainments and copious collections in ornithology and ichthyology, besides a general study of natural history. With a physical and mental vigor developed in collecting specimens, and still

unscathed by time, he unites excellent business qualities, and thorough acquaintance with publishing. He is the American editor and chief translator of the Iconographic Encyclopedia, which, with his duties in publishing and distributing the Smithsonian contributions, has peculiarly qualified him for the labor of editing and publishing the association proceedings. Nor is there any one whose intimacy with the scientific men in this country is more general and desirable. His youth and mental vitality give assurance of many years of effective service still in those labors where he is already so much at home.

The general secretary of the association is Professor J. D. Dana, of Yale College, if one so cosmopolitan in knowledge and journeyings can properly be assigned to a locality. (Professor St. John, of Cleveland, acted in this capacity at the last meeting, as Professor Dana was unable to attend.) He is one of the solid human columns on which our national scientific reputation may safely repose. Beneath a kindly and modest exterior, he has managed to amass treasures of accurate knowledge, sufficient to stock many ordinary heads to repletion. He is indeed a man of wonderful scientific learning for one still in his fresh manhood; and this learning is made prolific by a philosophic and reasoning mind. Among American mineralogists he is *facile princeps*, as evinced by his treatise on mineralogy; and we much doubt if in this branch the world can show his equal. The natural history of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition, which he accompanied, owes him a burden of obligation which will long be recognized by naturalists. Nor is it probable that a higher authority can be cited in respect to volcanic phenomena. These pipes of the Titans he has sniffed and scrutinized "the world around," having indeed carried on quite a flirtation with Pelée in the Sandwich Islands. His researches among the coral formations, and his writings thereon, take the very highest rank, and his monographs on Crustaceæ, Zoophytes and Medusæ would alone entitle him to the highest standing in natural history. As one of the chief editors of the *American Journal*

of *Science* he is abundant in good deeds and good works. Professor Dana is not perhaps a man of the highest genius, but he will leave the world decidedly the wiser for his labors and researches, even though he do no more in the future. But we trust he will through many years be spared to apply his well-trained powers to the boundless researches ever inviting them.

Dr. A. L. Elwyn, of Philadelphia, is now, and has been nearly from the first, treasurer of the association. His distinction lies not in any particular department of science, but he is much interested in promoting it, and ever ready to aid its advance. He has paid much attention to agriculture, and has a model farm, on which he is laboring to give a scientific direction to the too empirical processes of the routine farmer.

And so ends our talk of the retired presidents, and actual officers, of this scientific body. We might dwell on the functions of the standing committee, which is its governing council of elders, but this would possess very little general interest. It is on nomination by the standing committee that new members are elected, and such nominations may be procured through any actual member, by any person really engaged in prosecuting positive science.

The subject of scientific advancement in the United States is one of peculiar interest and importance. The work which science has to do, in cultivating the vast field of descriptive knowledge presented by our still new continent, in ministering to all the common arts of life, in evolving the grand principles and mysteries of nature, and in nurturing a higher and more beneficent spiritual faith; this is a work of such transcendent moment, that our loftiest conceptions are but feeble images of the unseen reality. The whole surface and substance of modern life is undergoing a ceaseless transformation, through the manifold ministries which science is daily embodying in the forms and operations of manufacture and of art. Though no prophecy reveals what the future may have in store, it is still the confident anticipation of reason,

that new wonder-workings will not soon cease to flow from the *cornucopia* of speculative and experimental science. When we reflect how few are cultivating philosophical researches in our midst, and compare this petty band with the mighty results to be achieved through their labors, and the limitless harvest waiting for reapers, our spontaneous aspiration is, without stint, and by all legitimate means, to increase the numbers and strengthen the arms of this too feeble fraternity.

America has not yet attained that scientific maturity which must, we hope, ere long entitle her to claim a foremost rank in the world-federation of philosophy. Preeminent in all the mechanical and practical functions of living and of labor, we lack that deeper element of digested learning and reflective culture which will give continuous vigor and systematic power to our scientific progression. Our low tone of mathematical culture precludes us from all access to some of the richest placers of physics, and throws many of our ablest minds on a subtle and tricky sleight of mind, in researches where the well-furnished investigator would cleave a sure, straight road to the end. With leisure and wealth will come an accession of solid strength and deliberate direction to our too spasmodic vaultings into the realms of discovery. When the man of science is relieved from the excessive labor, and stupefying routine of the professorial function, when research becomes a self-sustaining vocation, and when approved genius is permitted to address all its fire and energy to elaborating and verifying its originations; then American science, erect and self-reliant, will tower upward into a column of true national majesty, more honoring to us, and more diffusive of blessing to man, than even our glorious constitutional fabric. Speed that day, whoever can!

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE medal of the Society of Chemical Industry was presented to Sir William Crookes at a dinner in London, at which about 150 members and guests were present. The retiring president of the society, Dr. Rudolph

Messel, F.R.S., made the speech of presentation, to which Sir William Crookes replied.

AT the last meeting of the board of trustees of Cornell University, Mr. Henry R. Ickelheimer, '88, of New York, a member of the board, expressed a wish to give the university a statue of Dr. Andrew D. White, and his suggestion met with the cordial approval of the board. He proposed to give the commission to Mr. Karl Bitter.

THE Buchanan medal awarded by the Royal Society to Col. William C. Gorgas, the chief sanitary officer of the Panama Canal Zone, was formally presented at the anniversary meeting of the society on November 30.

DR. W. J. HOLLAND, the director of the Carnegie Museum, has returned to Pittsburgh after three months' absence in South America. He installed in the National Museum at La Plata a replica of the *Diplodocus* presented by Mr. Carnegie to the Argentine Republic. He was tendered a banquet by the Academy of Sciences at La Plata, upon which occasion he was made an honorary member of the academy in the section of the natural sciences. On the eve of his departure for the north, he was tendered a banquet at Buenos Aires by the united faculties of the universities of La Plata and Buenos Aires.

PRESIDENT HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN and Dr. J. A. Allen will represent the American Museum of Natural History at the Ninth International Congress of Zoology to be held at Monaco in March, 1913.

SIR THOMAS CROSBY, the retiring Lord Mayor of London, although eighty-two years of age, is preparing to return to the practise of surgery after laying down his official duties.

MR. C. S. ORWIN has been appointed director of the institute for research in agricultural economics at Oxford University.

DR. G. ABETTI has been appointed assistant astronomer in the Vatican Observatory at Rome.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY will have as seventh Harris lecturer next spring Dr. J. S.